

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 057486

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:WEGAN

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: JHOGANSON

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O 141627Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 057486

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT OF ASMARA 331 TO SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA MAR 14

QTE:

S E C R E T ASMARA 0331

EXDIS

ADDIS ABABA "ALSO" PASS TO CMAAG ADDIS; DEPT "ALSO" PASS TO
SECDEF WASHDC, CJCS WASHDC, CSA WASHDC, CSAF WASHDC, CNO WASHDC
AND USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY (PRIORITY)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ET, US

SUBJ: EPMG AMMUNITION REQUEST

REF: SECDEF 121519Z MAR 75

1. DETAILED SECDEF MSG. UNDER REFERENCE APPEARS MAKE CLEAR THAT
DECISION REACHED BY USG TO ACCEDE TO EPMG AMMUNITION RESUPPLY
REQUEST. IN VIEW DIRECT IMPACT CONSEQUENCES THIS DECISION WILL
PROBABLY HAVE ON FATE AMERICANS REMAINING HERE, I WOULD
APPRECIATE
ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING:

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PAGE 02 STATE 057486

A. IS THERE TO BE A PUBLIC STATEMENT? IF SO, MAY WE HAVE TEXT ASAP?

B. WHAT GUIDANCE IS CONTEMPLATED FOR USE HERE IN ATTEMPTING RESPOND
TO INEVITABLE QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE PUT TO US BY ERITREANS?
MAY WE HAVE THIS GUIDANCE ALSO ASAP?

C. IN PARTICULAR, DOES USG CONTEMPLATE MEDIATION EFFORTS AND,
IF SO, MAY WE DISCUSS SUCH PLANNED EFFORTS WITH ERITREAN FRIENDS?
IF PUBLICITY GIVEN TO ARMS RESUPPLY ACTION BELIEVE EQUAL PUBLICITY
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO USG MEDIATION EFFORTS AS ONE WAY OF DILUTING
ADVERSE IMPACT HERE OF RESUPPLY DECISION.

D. MAY WE HAVE CLARIFICATION OF REFTEL ON QUESTION SMALL ARMS
AMMO? IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT BOMBS ARE TO BE INCLUDED AS WELL AS
ARTILLERY SHELLS. THESE, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN USED BY ETH MILIT-
ARY IN SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGES NEAR ASMARA. RESS-
UPPLY OF THESE ITEMS, IN PARTICULAR, WILL NOT BE WELL RECEIVED
HERE.

2. IN VIEW LOCAL HOSTILITY TOWARDS AMERICANS LIKELY TO BE GEN-
ERATED BY RESUPPLY ACTION, AND STRONG POSSIBILITY ELF MAY REACT
OVERTLY, DO STATE/DOD STILL CONTEMPLATE RETAINING RESIDUAL
KAGNEW OPERATION DESPITE PROBABILITY OF INCREASING HAZARDS FOR
CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS TO SAY NOTHING OF NAVY AND CONGEN PERSONNEL?
ARE WE TO WAIT PATIENTLY FOR OUR FIRST CASUALTY BEFORE OPERATIONS
ARE REDUCED OR CANCELLED?

3. IT MATTER OF URGENCY THAT I RECEIVE PROPER GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS
RAISED ABOVE. WHILE IT PREMATURE TO STATE THAT US POSITION HERE
RENDERED UNTENABLE BY ARMS RESUPPLY DECISION, IT WILL
CERTAINLY BE MADE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS.

SHERRY
UNQTE INGERSOLL

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